

*Commemorating the 30th anniversary of Operation Provide Comfort* is a bipartisan concurrent resolution which recognizes the heroism of American soldiers, diplomats, political leaders and coalition partners who implemented Operation Provide Comfort. In 1991, Operation Provide Comfort saved hundreds of thousands of defenseless Kurds from Saddam Hussein's efforts to punish them for cooperating with America. It ultimately became the largest humanitarian operation of its kind. This resolution honors the thousands of brave Americans, from all across our country, who made it possible.

The bill also acknowledges the long terms partnership the United States has forged with Kurds as a result of Operation Provide Comfort. When the U.S. decided to launch Operation Provide Comfort, it did so in recognition of the suffering of the Kurds who had previously experienced a genocide that killed 200,000 men, women and children.. Since then, Kurds have demonstrated time and again their gratitude for American leadership in Operation Comfort and have welcomed and protected Americans who visit the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. In fact, no American serviceman has been killed in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq since 1991.

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq has also become a refuge for Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities who have been persecuted in other parts of Iraq and Syria. There are 250,000 to 300,000 Christians left in Iraq, the vast majority of whom now live peacefully in the Kurdistan Region.

The Kurds have also become an indispensable partner in the region. Our partnership is mutually beneficial, strategically enduring, and now absolutely crucial to the freedom and security of threatened religious minorities throughout the region..

In sum, in a region where instability and discord are rampant, and a joint commitment to shared values has grown increasingly rare, Members of Congress can, through this resolution, demonstrate their support for the brave American soldiers and diplomats who put themselves in harm's way during Operation Provide Comfort and who made it possible for the Kurds to create a safe space for all religions and races.

This material is distributed by Arent Fox LLP on behalf of Kurdistan Regional Government. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.